

New France: Analyzing Primary Sources

Rene-Robert Cavalier, Sieur de la Salle, was a French explorer. Jacques de la Metairie, a member of La Salle's expedition, recorded a ceremony in which La Salle claimed land for France. Read the passage, and then use the map to complete the tasks listed below.

"In the name of Louis the Great, King of France, Fourteenth of that name, this ninth day of April, one thousand six hundred and eighty-two. I do now take, in the name of his Majesty and of his successors to the crown, possession of this country of Louisiana. We claim the seas, harbors, ports, bays, and adjacent straits. We also claim all the nations, people, provinces, cities, towns, villages, mines, minerals, fisheries, streams, and rivers. The claim to Louisiana extends from the top of the great river St. Louis on the eastern side, along the River Colbert, or Mississippi, and includes those rivers that flow from the Mississippi. The claim extends to the mouth of the Mississippi, which is at the sea, or Gulf of Mexico. We make this claim with the assurance which we have received from all these Indian nations that we are the first Europeans who have traveled up or down the River Colbert. From now on we will protest against all those who may in the future try to invade any or all of these countries."



1. In the map above, color or shade in the exact territory that La Salle claimed for France.
2. In the middle of the territory, label the claim with the name that La Salle chose.
3. In the bottom left corner of the map, write the date of La Salle's claim.
4. Label the rivers on the map with all of the names that La Salle uses in the passage.
5. Label the southern limit of the claim with the name that La Salle uses.
6. Label the map with the name(s) of the other European nation(s) that had explored the land that La Salle claimed.